

Henry Shaw Town House,
Missouri Botanical Gardens,
St. Louis, Mo.

HABS No. MO-1135-A
HABS
MO.

96. SALU
105A-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of St. Louis

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
CENTRAL UNIT -- ST. LOUIS

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
Eugene L. Pleitsch, District Officer
1592 Arcade Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.

MO-1135 ^A HABS

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HENRY SHAW TOWN HOUSE

Missouri Botanical Gardens, St. Louis, Mo.

Historical Data

Name: Henry Shaw Town House.

Year of Erection: 1850

Built for: Henry Shaw, retired hardware merchant.

Architect: Barnett & Peck of St. Louis (George I. Barnett & Charles H. Peck)

Built by: Barnett & Peck.

Original use: Residence.

Notable Events and Occupants: Occupied by Mr. Shaw from 1850 to time of his death in 1889. His will provided for its careful demolition and rebuilding at 2315 Tower Grove Avenue, which is along the eastern boundary of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Source of Information: Office of Dr. George Moore, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Prepared by

John A. Bryan
John A. Bryan

1/6/41

Research Associate in American Architecture

HENRY SHAW TOWN HOUSE

Missouri Botanical Gardens, St. Louis, Mo.

Physical Data

Name: Town House of Henry Shaw.

Location: Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

Present Owner: Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

Description (Present Condition)

Wall construction: Brick.

Size and form: Rectangular with 3-story servants' wing adjoining south side.

Number stories: Three.

Front porch: None. Rear porch: Along east wall of servants' wing.

Exterior openings, windows: Double-hung.

" " doors: Heavy wood, pair at front, single at rear.

Cornice: Wood

Roofing: Copper

Chimneys: Brick (two large ones in center of roof).

Interior

Floors: Wood and tile.

Doors: Wood

Trim: Wood

Mantels: Four elaborate ones of marble.

Stairways: Slate treads, wood balustrade, carved.

Plasterwork: Ornamental cornices and ceiling rosettes.

Additions and alterations: House was moved to present location in 1891 from original site at southwest corner of Seventh and Locust Streets.

Prepared by _____, Jan. 6, 1941

John A. Bryan
Research Associate in American Architecture

Addendum to
Henry Shaw Town House
Missouri Botanical Garden
2345 Tower Grove Avenue
St. Louis
Missouri

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PHOTOGRAPHS
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

MULTI
ADDENDUMS
FOLLOW....

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MO-1135-A

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
ADDENDUM TO
HENRY SHAW TOWNHOUSE

Location: 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, facing the intersection of Tower Grove and Botanical Avenues, St. Louis, Missouri.

USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.738800.4276950.

Present Owner: Board of Trustees, Missouri Botanical Garden.

Present Use: Office of administrative staff, Missouri Botanical Garden.

Significance: Representative of the Renaissance Revival style popular in mid-nineteenth century St. Louis, the structure was the town residence of Henry Shaw, founder of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: September 1849-1851 (Shaw Mss. 'Accounts 1849,' v.4).
2. Architects: Charles H. Peck and George I. Barnett (contract 7/1/49 in Shaw Mss. Bills 1840-1849). For biographical information on Peck and Barnett, see the HABS report on the Missouri Botanical Garden, (MO-1135).
3. Original and subsequent owners: Description of property: Shaw had his house constructed on city lot 181, at the southwest corner of Seventh and Locust Streets. Upon his death in 1889, the property was willed to the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Garden. In 1891-1892, as stipulated by Shaw's will (clause 30), the Trustees had the house disassembled and reerected within the Garden (Trustees' Minutes, 2/11/91), on city lot 4104, 2315 Tower Grove Avenue, facing the intersection of Tower Grove and Botanical Avenues.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers, etc.: Peck and Barnett supervised the construction. Bricks were supplied by Jacob Tice (bill 9/14/49 in Shaw Mss., 'Building 1849, v.5') and laid by Samuel Robbins (bill 1/22/49 in Shaw Mss., 'Building 1849, v. 5'). Framing was done by William Johnson, Raymond and Kendel (Shaw Mss. 'Accounts 1849, v. 4,' 5/18/50 with

lumber supplied by Morrison (?) and Boswell (Shaw Mss., 'Building 1849, v. 5,' 10/9/49). Garnett and Company supplied the stone (Shaw Mss. 'Building 1849 v. 5,' 6/9/49) and William Cottier cut the steps and sills (Shaw Mss., 'Building v. 5,' 1/10/50 - 5/13/51). Carpentry was done by Isaac H. Squires (Shaw Mss. 'Building 1849, v. 5,' 12/49-3/50), Benjamin Stottlemeyer, William Boswell Kennedy, and William Sillicot (Shaw Mss. 'Building 1849, v. 5,' 6/18/50-10/14/50). Three hundred and eighteen dollars (\$318.00) worth of mahogany was supplied by S. B. Flint and Company (Shaw Mss. 'Building 1849, v. 5,' 4/14/51); Barth, Kluefer, and Siegert carved the 104 bannisters from it for \$77.65 (Shaw Mss., 'Building v. 5,' 6/21/51). "Mouldings, cornices, and pilaster decorations: were ordered from George B. Michael for \$160 (Shaw Mss., 'Building 1848, v. 4,' 5/51). Plastering was done by Smith and Evil (Shaw Mss. 'Building 1849, v. 5,' 11/30/50); painting by T. R. Cooper (Shaw Mss. 'Building 1849, v. 5,' 8/17/50) and John Thompson (Shaw Mss. 'Building 1849, v. 5,' 7/29/51). Pawly, Hawkins, and Fairbridge supplied wrought-and cast-iron railing, anchors, door grates and window guards for \$242.10 (Shaw Mss., 'Building 1849, v. 5,' 4/18/51).

5. Original plans, construction, etc.: The original plans were apparently lost during the 1930s (Paolinelli interview). The dwelling was reported to have cost Shaw \$40,000 in gold (Republic, p. 8) when it was first constructed at the southwest corner of Seventh and Locust Streets, in downtown St. Louis. In 1891-1892, as stipulated by Shaw's will, the Trustees of the Garden had the house disassembled and reerected within the Garden (Trustees' Minutes, 2/11/91).
6. Alterations and Additions: In 1856 the kitchen was reroofed by Hull and Cozzens (bill 1/10/56 in Shaw Mss. Ledger 1859-1861 v. 3, p. 14). Nothing but routine maintenance was done to the house until Shaw's death.

In 1891, in accordance with Shaw's will and under the supervision of George I. Barnett (Trustees' Minutes 3/11/91), the house was taken down and reerected in the Garden. Granite foundations replaced the deteriorated sandstone originals. Apparently during reconstruction Barnett anticipated that the building would receive an addition, since he included a new steam heating apparatus and had an additional boiler pit dug (Trustees' Minutes 6/10/91), had concrete floors put in, had the dining room floor tiled instead of refitted with the original wooden flooring, and had electric outlets installed along with gas fittings (Trustees' Minutes 6/10/91). The cost of reerection was \$33,478.89 (Trustees' Minutes, 1/13/92). In

1895 new steam heating was added by Thompson, Anderson, and Kennedy (Trustees' Minutes, 1/6/95).

In November 1903, Mauran, Russell, and Garden submitted a plan for making the Townhouse a wing in a quadrangular complex to house the expanding library and herbarium. The complex would have cost between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 (Globe-Democrat, p. 1) (Trustees Minutes, 11/11/03). Only the first step in the plan, the \$50,000 addition to the south of the Townhouse, was completed. The fireproof addition was begun in April 1908 (City Building Permit, Block 4104, F 5355, 4/15/08) and completed in 1909. See the HABS report on the Missouri Botanical Garden Administration Building (MO-1135-B).

A rotted wooden cornice on the south section of the Townhouse was replaced with molded terra cotta in 1927 (Trustees' Minutes, 10/14/27, p. 1). In 1929 the Townhouse was set up as the Henry Shaw Museum and the worn original copper roof on the southern part of the addition was replaced (Trustees' Minutes, 12/31/29, p. 12). In 1949 the entire basement was sprayed with waterproofing. The reception room was repainted and the Shaw water basin removed. In 1968 the basement was renovated and a gas furnace installed (MBG Bulletin, March-April 1968, p. 43).

Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum, Inc. began the first phase of a \$250,000 renovation in June 1974. The goal of the project is to remove all public-oriented functions from the original Townhouse into the 1908 addition and eventually to restore the Townhouse as a museum house run under a separate heating and air-conditioning system. The initial priorities are to arrest deterioration and to restore exterior stonework, terra cotta, and iron, leaving interior renovation of the Townhouse in indefinite abeyance until adequate funds have been acquired.

The \$40,000 'Phase I' remodeling leaves the Townhouse essentially intact. (Klein interview) For additional information on the remodeling, see the HABS report on the Missouri Botanical Garden Administration Building (MO-1135-B).

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

1. Henry Shaw (1800-1889). For biographical information about the Garden founder, see the HABS report on the Missouri Botanical Garden (MO-1135).

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Two exterior views of the Townhouse in its original location taken from the north and east (see HABS photo-

copies); three exterior views after reerection in the Garden, taken from the southwest (see HABS photocopies) and east; two views (see HABS photocopies) of the exterior taken from the east after the 1908 addition; and one interior view of Room 101 (see HABS photocopy) are in the miscellaneous picture file in drawers #1 and #2 of Oversize Archives in the John S. Lehmann Library in the Missouri Botanical Garden.

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

1. Manuscripts, etc.: The Shaw Manuscript collection contains 'Accounts 1849, v. 4' and 'Building 1850, v. 5'; the Trustees' Minutes from 1889-1933; and an unpublished paper by Dorothy A. Brockhoff, entitled "A study of Henry Shaw and His Houses," March 8, 1962. They are in the Lehmann Library.

The plans by Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum for 'Phase I' renovation are in the custody of Assistant Garden Director William Klein.

2. Interviews: July 9, 1974. Office of Assistant Director, Missouri Botanical Garden, 2315 Tower Grove Avenue, William M. Klein explained the nature of the current renovation.

June 8, 1974. Offices of Sylvester Schmidt Associates, 601 Olive St. (Railway Exchange Building); Fernando Paolinelli, one of the principals of one of the successors to the firm of George I. Barnett (T. P. Barnett), related that all drawings for Shaw commissions were destroyed when the other succeeding firm, Barnett, Haynes and Barnett, closed their office in the 1930s, in spite of T. P. Barnett's attempt to retrieve them.

b. Secondary and published sources:

"Barnett, Haynes, and Barnett," The Church Progress (July 27, 1922), p. 10.

Barnett, Thomas P. "Pioneer Architect of the West," Western Architect, (February 1912), pp. 13-24.

"Changes Planned at Shaw's Garden," St. Louis Globe-Democrat, (April 12, 1908), pp. 1 and 4.

- "Charles H. Peck," Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis, I. William Hyde and Howard L. Conrad, eds. St. Louis: The Southern History Co., 1899, p. 98.
- Dimmock, Thomas. "Henry Shaw: A Biography (1890)," Missouri Botanical Garden Reprint, 1946.
- "George I. Barnett," Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis, I. William Hyde and Howard L. Conrad, eds. St. Louis: The Southern History Co., 1899, pp. 1713-1715.
- "Henry Shaw's Old Home," St. Louis Republic, (April 13, 1891), p. 8.
- Kobuski, Clarence E. "Formative Days at Mr. Shaw's Garden," Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin, XXX, #5 (May 1942), pp. 100-110.
- MacAdam, David H. Tower Grove Park. St. Louis: R. P. Studley Co., 1883.
- "Maintenance and Engineering," Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin, LVI, #2 (March-April 1968), p. 43.
- Moore, George. "Sixtieth Annual Report of the Director," Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin, XXXVII, #1 (January 1949), pp. 1-6.
- Shaw, Henry. "Guide to the Missouri Botanical Gardens in 1880," reprinted in Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin, XXXI, #1 (September 1943), pp. 138-145.
- Shoemaker, Floyd, Calvin, ed. "George I. Barnett," Missouri and Missourians: Missouri Biography, V. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1943, p. 73.
- "Some Facts about the Garden," Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin, XXXI, #7, (Sept., 1943), n. p.

Prepared by	Carolyn Hamm
Supplemented by	Peter Dessauer
	Historians
	National Park Service
	June through Sept.
	1974 and 1975

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This Renaissance Revival mansion is one of the few remaining examples of a mid-nineteenth century St. Louis townhouse.
2. Condition of fabric: The brickwork is in good condition, the sandstone trim is chipped and badly worn.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Rectangular, consisting of two blocks, the main block to the north and a shallower side wing to the south; 82'-7" (8-bay east front) by 32'-7" (three bays), 57' high to roof top of north block, three stories, full basement.
2. Foundations: Stone masonry.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Red brick with white sandstone lintels, sills, moldings, and pier caps. The east facade of the south wing has a loggia at the second story level with a giant arcade of round-headed arches and square pilasters.
4. Structural system: Load-bearing walls.
5. Chimneys: Two chimneys evenly spaced from the center of the roof on the north block are surrounded by a wrought iron railing consisting of plain vertical members with widely spaced fleur-de-lis-shaped decorative elements on the upper rail which forms a 'Captain's Walk.'
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors:
 1. The main entry in the north block on the east elevation has a stoop reached by a flight of steps. It is surmounted by a stone pediment flanked by stone pilasters. There is a straight transom light above the door itself, which has two vertical panels embellished with decorative molding, and which is bracketed by pilasters of wood with acanthus leaf caps.
 2. The rear door of the north block, on the west elevation, is on axis with the main entrance. It is entered from a high stoop and has a straight transom above

it, which is covered by filigreed wrought iron. The door has four panels and is painted black, as is the main door. It is set inside a pair of spear-headed iron gates, the tops of which curve up from their center to the door jambs. The iron railing is of the same design as that described under windows, elevation, south wing, below.

3. East (front) door, south wing: The four-paneled black door has a plain transom above it.
4. West (rear) door, south wing: The black, four-paneled door is reached by a flight of steps and has a straight transom, divided into eight vertical segments, above it.

b. Windows:

1. North elevation: The first story windows are defined by stone moldings and sills, and have flat-headed one-over-one-light sash. The second floor windows are defined by the same molding and one-over-one sash, but have pediments above and stone based balconies below, which are carried on stone brackets embellished with floral designs on their sides. The balconies have ornamental iron guardrails consisting of a running band of round-arched members interspaced with pendants below the handrail; their mirror images form the bottom of the balcony railing above the lower rail. A horizontal band of oval motifs runs across the center of the balcony. On the third story, the windows are segmental-arched and defined by the same molding, and again have one-over-one light sash.
2. East elevation:
 - a. North block: The first and second story windows have pedimented one-over-one light sash surrounded by stone molding. The third story windows are of the same design, but are segmental, having no pediments above them.
 - b. South wing: The first story has six-over-six-light sash with flat stone lintels and sills. They are covered by iron window guards, consisting of vertical spear-headed members and horizontal rows of quatrefoils filling in between their shafts at the bottom. On the second and third

stories, the windows are six-over-six-light sash surmounted by flat arches of brick with a stone keystone.

3. West elevation: The backside of the building has rectangular six-over-six-light windows with flat stone lintels and sills in both the north and south sections. Three round-arched windows with colored glass panes follow the slope of the north interior stairway. Wrought iron railing of the same design as that used on the first story of the east elevation of the south wing, described above, covers the lower of the two. There is a similar railing over the southern window on the north block.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape and covering: The hip roof of the north block has an iron railing forming a "Captain's Walk," described under chimneys above. The south wing has a very low pitch, hip roof. The roofing is sheet metal.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The eaves extend 20" and have a row of modillions underneath the thick stone cornice. The original cornice on the south block was replaced with one of terra cotta.

8. Loggia: The giant arcade on the east side of the south wing consists of round arches carried by square brick piers with stone caps. There are decorative iron guardrails between the piers. These are 4'-4" high. Their top sections have studded, diamond-shaped elements. Their bottoms have five segments of filigreed, x-shaped elements.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: Entering through the front door of the north block, the central hall leads one to the stairhall at the west and to the rear door, with one room to the south and two to the north. The south wing, the former servants' wing, has two rooms.
- b. Second and Third floors: There is the stairhall with two rooms leading off it to the east and one to the north in the north block. The south wing has an open plan.

2. Stairway: The stairs are straight, with elegantly carved newel post and balusters of mahogany (details recorded on HABS drawings). The newel post is round, with a bulbous base embellished with leaves, tapering into a fluted shaft, which widens near the top to form the base of another rounded, leaf-embellished element at the junction with the handrail. There is a ball cap. The balusters are modeled in gentle 'S' curves; their center sections are fluted. The steps are polished slate.
 3. Flooring: The first floor north entrance and stairhalls are of colored Minton tile. The rest of the floors are tongue and groove wood.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls and ceilings are plastered and painted white. The baseboards, cornices, and profile moldings are recorded in detail by HABS drawings.
 5. Doorways and doors: The front entrance is flanked by indented pilasters with a leaf motif decoration on the capitals. All doorways are surrounded and surmounted by moldings and cornices (details recorded in HABS drawings).
 6. Fireplaces: Ornately carved fireplaces exist in the rooms on the first and second floors of the north block, rooms 101, 103, 201, and 203. They feature marble mantelpieces. The one in room 101 has a projecting central scallop shell motif with extremely ornate floral patterns running down the sides. The one in room 103 is severely classical with a central keystone flanked by pilasters and fluted scroll brackets. In room 201, a central cartouche is flanked by garlands with herms on the side pieces. In room 203, the sidepieces consist of octagonal engaged columns.
 7. Notable hardware: Original knobs and handles have been removed from the doors, but the door keepers remain. There are sliding iron doors of ornate tracery between the north stairhall and the south wing on the first and second floors.
 8. Mechanical equipment: There are radiators in the stairhalls.
- D. Site: The Townhouse faces east, behind an iron spear-headed fence which parallels the sidewalk and Tower Grove Avenue.

Prepared by	Peter Dessauer
Supplemented by	Carolyn Hamm
	Historians
	National Park Service
	June through Sept.
	1974 and 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (architect, University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect. (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, project foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Torpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers, in the HABS Washington office in 1982. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983.

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